Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 3.30pm on Monday 23rd April 2012 at the Village Hall, Station Road

Present: Mary Dawson (MD) in the chair, Richard Davis (RD), Geoff Kennedy (GK), Peter Calver (PC), Marie-Louise Marsden (MM) and Alan Buckland.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Santos, Sandra Heard and Pam Moss. MD welcomed AB to his first meeting as Treasurer and PC formally as a committee member.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2012

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

(i) U3A AGM

GK said that the committee would need to decide at some stage whether to attend the national AGM in September. He had attended with MD in 2010; it had been interesting, although debates on motions tended to be of little consequence, as proxy and postal votes decided what happened. The committee noted the position and agreed to discuss the matter at their next meeting.

(i) Jubilee Celebration

MD said that she was still short of helpers for both labelling the tombola prizes on the evening of 4th June and for running the stalls on Tuesday 5th June. It was noted that some members had 'signed up' on the list at the core meeting, but more help would be needed.

4. Committee Responsibilities

It was noted that SH would continue as Speakers' Secretary, PM as Diary and Events Co-ordinator and RD as Assistant Treasurer. PC would be undertaking the role of Administration Officer, in addition to his publicity and webmaster roles. Martin Richards (MR) would continue with some of his previous responsibilities, such as the Hall rota. In view of this and MR's value to the committee, it was agreed to co-opt him back onto the committee.

PC said that there seemed to be some difficulty in producing consistent membership lists. He felt that the list should be kept in Excel, as it was more flexible and could be manipulated. It was agreed that PC would produce the membership list in Excel; GK would let him and committee members know of changes to the current list, to enable its production. It was noted that members had until 31st May to renew and the list could not be finalised until then.

PC said that the website included items of news and local events: this was to encourage members to visit the site. He asked whether it should be made available to other groups. The committee felt that it was important for the U3A to be part of village life and should include village items; however, care had to be taken to keep postings under control. No political items should be allowed and U3A news and events needed to take precedence.

At MLM's suggestion, it was agreed that the committee would meet, in future, in the Village Hall, following core meetings, on a quarterly basis. The meetings for the 2012/13 year, therefore, would be: 23rd July, 22nd October and 28th January 2013, starting immediately following the core meeting.

5. Other Business

a) Core Meeting Format

The committee discussed the format of core meetings, as many members appeared to have left the meeting that afternoon immediately after the tea break. GK said that the committee had discussed the format on a number of occasions and had not yet found the best solution. After discussion, it was agreed to change the format so that the notices were given before the tea break and the raffle result would be given afterwards.

b) New Groups

MD referred to the importance of establishing new groups. It was agreed to raise the issue again at the next core meeting and committee members were asked to encourage and help members to establish a new group, where interest is expressed.

c) Date of Next Meeting

Monday 23rd July, following the core meeting.